



Two Paths to Ending Suffering

Thank you for the outstanding article regarding animal research problems ("Behind Closed Doors," May/June 2011). I am thrilled The HSUS is tackling what may be the most difficult area of animal cruelty to change. By working to expose the horrendous cruelty you mentioned, and demand an end to it, society as a whole will benefit greatly.

Not mentioned in the article is that many validated alternatives to animal research already exist. Along with what The HSUS is doing to end the most painful and frightening experiments on animals, I urge you to please make many already validated nonanimal research methods a part of this campaign. Millions of dollars have gone into creating alternatives to cruel animal experiments. I wait for the day when research will not have to be performed behind closed doors, but with open doors and with no animal subjects at all.

— ANNE FEINGOLD, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



I admire a lot about The Humane Society of the United States, including much that appears in All Animals. However, the story about laboratory animals and the drive to lessen their suffering seemed off-point to me. Isn't eliminating animal experimentation

the real issue, rather than (merely) providing palliatives earlier and treating lab animals better?

I've read that a great percentage of animal experimentation is neither valid nor necessary; that there are better ways to learn what's needed; and that some so-called testing is grant-funded frivolity. Why not fight to eliminate animals in labs, rather than improving conditions for them?

— PAT SUMMERS, LAWRENCEVILLE, NEW JERSEY

LEAH GOMEZ FROM OUR ANIMAL RESEARCH ISSUES DEPARTMENT RESPONDS: The HSUS is actively working toward the day when animals are no longer used in harmful research and testing. We are pressing for an end to the use of chimpanzees in invasive research and for the full replacement of animals in chemical and product testing. While we promote alternatives to the use of animals in biomedical research in the long term, we also make it an urgent priority to eliminate their suffering right now. Our work aims to not only improve animal welfare but promote scientific progress that will benefit all animals, including humans. Learn more at humanesociety.org/animalresearch.

Oh, Thank You!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the article "Oh, Baby" (May/June 2011). As a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for the state of Ohio, I feverishly try to get all of these "tips" across to my friends, their friends, through Facebook, etc. The article sums up what I try to tell everyone, every year at the beginning of "baby" season. It was wonderfully written; even a third grader would be able to follow the steps to keeping our wild fur babies in their natural habitats!

— CHERYL CHASTEEN, WEST MILTON, OHIO

He's Got Fans ...

The story on young Micah Staub ("He's Got Talent," May/June 2011) and his work with rescue animals was so wonderful that for the first time in years I was moved to write a letter to the editor. What a terrific kid! His family must be so proud of him. And of course, all his animal friends. Micah, please keep up the good work and know you now have admirers all over the country. You are the best.

— BARBARA BASLER, WASHINGTON, D.C.

... And So Do We

I have been reading your magazine from front to back since the May/June 2010 issue. There are some articles that are too sad for me, but by reading them, I have learned a lot of things that I was blind to. Because of the articles, there are things that I changed in our home. Thank God my husband has been very receptive and supportive.

— SILVIA TESSENEER, SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA

Love getting this magazine. I pass it on to others after reading cover to cover.

— MARYANNE ORIENTE MATHER, VIA FACEBOOK

We the Outraged

The actions of Missouri's state senate in trying to reverse an anti-puppy mill measure passed by voters in November is disgusting ("We the People," May/June 2011). We have had to deal in the past with similar legislative actions in Colorado. Voters cannot let elected officials deny them their right to vote and make choices.

— V.B. JOHNSON, BROOMFIELD, COLORADO



Exterior Design

When my daughter, Jackie, was about 10 years old, she read a book that mentioned how birds used tufts of deer hair to line their nests ("House Beautiful," May/June 2011). She asked me what I thought our local suburban New York birds used in its place. When I couldn't answer, she suggested that the ample brushings from our dog, Gypsy, would be a good substitute. Jackie began leaving tufts of the hair she brushed out of Gypsy's coat on the ends of our evergreen shrubs. In the early spring, we were treated to blue jays, robins, cardinals, and every other bird in the area swooping down and plucking the bounty as we watched through the window.

— JOYCE SALOMON, CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA